

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, December 17, 2007 at 4:30pm at the Morton Community Center.

Present at said meeting were Leon Trachtman, Paula Woods, Garnet Peck, Mike Dana, Karen Springer and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Council member Ann Hunt and Gil Satterly were present along with Judy Rhodes, Clerk-Treasurer and Mayor-elect John Dennis. Absent were Council member Gerry Keen and Lee Booth from the Department.

Leon convened the Board at 4:35pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2007 meeting. Mike motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Garnet seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Distributed a copy of what has been spent so far on the safety improvements at the pool. Bids will be opened tomorrow at Board of Works for the fence. \$200,000 was appropriated out of the NRC Pool Account, which is revenue from pool admissions.
- A new swing set has been ordered for Happy Hollow Park to replace the one for the 2-5 year olds.

Parks – Pennie reported in Lee's absence on the following:

- Inspections for the trails and playgrounds noted.
- Privacy fence, some signage, two additional bench pads were added to Lincoln Park
- Continue painting Morton classrooms
- New traffic control gate added to Mascouten Park
- Signs were added along Wabash Heritage Trail (Tapawingo Drive south section)
- Reorganizing Happy Hollow Park maintenance shop
- Snow removal and other routine maintenance in all parks

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- Skate with Santa was held on Saturday, December 13 from 9-11 am. Forty-six skaters enjoyed hot chocolate and donuts with Santa.
- Riverside Skating Center will be open for holiday hours beginning Christmas Eve December 24 from 1-3 pm and 4-6 pm. The Skating Center will be closed Christmas Day but will reopen December 26 from 1-3 pm, 4-6 pm and 7-9 pm through January 3.
- The staff is preparing the winter brochures for mailing. The brochures should be in the mail later this week.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- Brenda passed out a report with enrollment figures. Our fall enrollment was 1,269 compared to last year's fall enrollment of 1,335 with is a decrease of five percent. For the year, however, we had an overall increase in enrollment of three percent.

- Chris Kuchta has agreed to the lease agreement for room 105 that includes a five percent increase each year. He has moved into his room, and seems very pleased with his space.
- Morton will be closed December 22 – January 1 and will open again on January 2.

West Lafayette Athletic Booster Club Proposal

Joe introduced Mark Leslie from the Booster Club. Mark requested financial assistance for a shelter at the Cumberland School courts for the high school tennis team, which would also benefit the Department. The request is for \$8,000. The School Board still has to approve the shelter project and accept the money. A Purchase Order to the Booster Club for \$8,000 and a Letter of Agreement will go with it. Judy mentioned that if the Purchase Order needs to be made payable to the School Corporation that that change could be made later. Joe presented BPR 4-07 for \$8,000 to cover the request. Mike motioned to approve BPR 4-07. Garnet seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mike then motioned to approve the request of \$8,000 to assist with the shelter. Garnet seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Old Business

2008 Part-Time Payroll Summary

Chris requested a correction to the Part-time Payroll Summary, there was a typo. The maintenance position should read \$16.97 per hour, not \$16.77. Mike motioned to approve the corrected 2008 Part-Time Payroll Summary as presented. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

New Business

2008 Park Board Meeting Dates

Joe presented the dates for the 2008 Park Board meetings.

West Lafayette School Board - Karen reported on the following:

- The 'US News and World Report' collaborated with the School Evaluation Services and analyzed academic and enrolment data from more than 18,000 public high schools throughout the nation. One hundred schools across the nation were designated gold schools; only one school in Indiana received that; a charter school from Evansville. The second tier of 405 schools were designated silver and West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School did receive a silver rating along with ten other schools in Indiana.
- All Indiana public schools will be watching the State Legislatures this year in regards to property tax reform, there have been some commission reports, there will be many ideas generated and debate. Schools will rally in support of a stable funding revenue stream and continuance of local controls of our schools. The reassessment process has proved to be complicated and lengthy. Word has it that most schools will not receive their June property tax draw until fall, which will require school corporations to finance an additional amount of money, which means having to pay an increased amount in interest.

- The current mind-set is that money/tax dollars follows the students so school corporations that are declining or level as West Lafayette is, have been forced to analyze their financial situation carefully. The Board is looking at ways to increase revenue and decrease expenses, which is difficult with the increase in health cost and utilities.

Wabash River

Mike just mentioned the report from W.R.E.C. that was in your packets. The report talked about continuing work on moving forward toward the corridor master plan, Corp of Engineers hydraulic study and Stan's activities. There was also the report of the River Parkway Commission to W.R.E.C. Mike mentioned that he looks forward to the new Mayor joining the enhancement corporation.

Other

Pool Fence

Joe mentioned that the Board of Works would be receiving bids for the pool fence. He requested Park Board authorization to sign a contract that represents the lowest responsive and responsible bid so that those funds may be encumbered. Garnet motioned to authorize Joe permission to sign the contract. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

City Assets

The Clerk-Treasurer's Office is working on getting the City's assets booked in the proper location. We have a sewer line that was installed in 2004 connecting to our park maintenance barn, installed at a cost of \$4,497.90. Technically, it belongs to the Park Board since it is on our property, but they are trying to move all those to Wastewater Treatment Utilities. Joe requested that the Park Board transfer that asset to the Wastewater Treatment Utilities. Mike motioned to transfer the asset to Wastewater. Garnet seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Lilly Nature Center Rental

Joe received a request from the Indiana Wildlife Federation to waive the fees for renting the Nature Center on Saturday, March 22 is to conduct a workshop titled 'Maximizing your Habitat'. They will be charging a fee for attending, \$25-\$35 depending on membership. They would allow anyone from the Department and the County Parks to attend without a fee. Their intent is to cover the cost of lunch and materials. Paula motioned to approve the request. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

BPR 5-07

Joe request transfer of funds for a total of \$1200 to Parks 441- Furniture & Fixtures for a utility cart, four chairs for the shop, one drafting table chair and two office chairs. Mike motioned to approve the transfer. Garnet seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

T-shirt Sale

Brenda requested permission to allow bands that are performing at Morton on Friday evening to sell t-shirts. Mike motioned to approve the request. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pay Claims

Garnet motioned for claims to be paid. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Mike motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Presiding Officer

Secretary